

March 15 to make up the quantity you desire (which hope can be done this week) on my own credit and with the Assistance of some Gentlemen of the Town trusting that your Board will send an order on the Collector of this County for the money to reimburse us, but cannot suppose it prudent to send any Provisions from hence by water whilst the Enemies ships are up the Bay, therefore shall wait your further orders in this matter as the danger has arose since the date of your letter.

March 15
Brown Book
No. 8
Letter 29

[Holker, Philadelphia, to Gov. Lee.]

The letter which you did me the honor of writing to me on the 16th February, after having reached Philadelphia, returned to Baltimore & from thence here, is now at hand, your Excellency & the Honorable the executive council, may depend, that I have & shall take decisive measures, to comply with their desire, & to procure the arms & cloathing they call for I have laid my plan before His Excellency the Chev^r De la Luzerne, who approves of my views & is of opinion with myself, that his majesty's Ministers in france, will give every protection & facility consistent with the public Service. I have also forwarded to the Marquis de Castries Secretary of State of the Marine Department, the proposals of the Hon^{ble} the Council, with your Excellency's letter, so as he may be acquainted with the urgent necessities of the inhabitants of Maryland, in order also that he may Judge of the practibility of uniting this business with the service of the navy, & for granting a permit for shipping the articles you want, on some of his Majestys frigates coming to America. I could wish that some such arrangement could take place not only in order to avoid paying a freight, which would be a considerable saving to the state, but also to ensure their arival, which is of much greater importance

the friends in france to whom I have applied are more of great worth, property, integrity & Spirit: they are in my opinion the most active & capable in that Kingdom, to execute this Commission to your utmost Satisfaction in every point of view & I have Strong hopes, though I dare not promise it, that they will go immediately to work so soon as my letters come to hand, Especialy as I am fully convinced, that the Minister of the royal marine will recommend it to them.

I shall deem it one of the most happy circumstances of my life, if my interference, can be any ways instrumental, in procuring any object which may contribute to the deffence or happiness of the Inhabitants of Maryland; my exertions shall be both strenuous & liberal. I shall deem the reward truly great, if I am so happy as to give satisfaction & to deserve the approbation of your excellency & the honourable Council: to convince you that these are my sentiments, I have pledged myself for the punctual execution of the